

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-4 and 7-20 before calculating the filing fee as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (original) A method of manufacturing a recording medium for recording and reproducing information utilizing mutual interaction due to near field light generated by light incident to an optical head or light irradiated onto a recording medium, comprising the steps of: patterning a light-blocking layer on a transparent substrate; and forming a layer dispersed with a metal particulate at the transparent substrate.

6. (original) The recording medium manufacturing method according to claim 5, further including a step for removing the layer formed on the light-blocking layer.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)